



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/408,874	09/29/1999	MARTIN M. DENEROFF	499.034US1	4556

21186 7590 12/04/2002

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. BOX 2938
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2181	

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/408,874 Applicant(s) Dener of t et al.
Examiner X. CHUNG-TRANS Group Art Unit 2181

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/29/99
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1 - 31 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1 - 31 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4-5 Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2181

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-31 are pending in this application.
2. The oath or declaration is objected to because the signature of the joint inventor, John Brennan, is missing or unsigned.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Galles et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,721,819).

As per above claims, Galles discloses (Figs. 1- 5) the invention as claimed, comprising a set of functionally independent processing nodes (102) having one or more local processor (304) and local memory (312), wherein each node includes a common communication interface (204, 508) for communicating with other nodes within the system via a messages conforming to a packetized network protocol; and one or more routing modules (208) communicatively coupling the processing nodes via their respective common communication interface, wherein the nodes operate in a global shared memory address space (col. 5, lines 53-58), wherein the common communication interface within each node connects the local memory (312) to the local processors (304), providing at least one port (404) for interfacing with the routing modules

Art Unit: 2181

(208,308) and one port for communicating with an I/O subsystem (316), includes a system control hierarchy comprising a level one controller, a level two controller and a level three controller (col. 6, line 64 to col. 10, line 58), a plurality of interface control units, and a crossbar (408), wherein each control unit communicates by sending messages through the crossbar, wherein the message protocol is a synchronous message protocol comprising requests and replies (col. 6, lines 8-22, and cols. 11-12).

As per claim 30-31, Galles discloses (Figs. 1- 5) the invention as claimed, comprising a set of functionally independent processing nodes that can be operatively coupled to form one of a plurality of computing topologies, wherein each computing topology supports a number of the processing nodes and wherein each computing topology is a superset of the computing topologies that support fewer processing nodes (col. 4, lines 1-39).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xuong Chung-Trans whose telephone number is (703) 305-9772. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30AM to 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached on (703) 305- 4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



X.M. Chung-Trans
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2181